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UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 543rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 19 June 1990, at 3 p.m.

President:

Mr. ZUZE

(Zambia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.55 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION (PART II) (A/AC.131/1989/CRP.35/Rev.5)

2. The PRESIDENT said that, at its 248th meeting held on 26 April 1990, the Steering Committee of the Council had approved Part II of the draft report of the Council, which contained draft resolutions recommended by the Council for adoption by the General Assembly. Those draft resolutions were contained in document A/AC.131/1989/CRP.35/Rev.4. Subsequently, the President of the General Assembly had convened a meeting on 27 April 1990 to discuss arrangements for introducing item 36 on Namibia during a resumed session of the General Assembly. At that meeting, it had been agreed that an Inter-Departmental Working Group of the Secretariat would review and advise on the technical and procedural aspects of the draft resolutions of the Council in view of the special nature of their content, which included the dissolution of a United Nations body, arrangements for the orderly completion of the activities of the Council and the transfer to Namibia of important training institutions related to Namibia, as well as the continuing and future role of the United Nations Fund for Namibia. The Inter-Departmental Working Group had reviewed the Council's drafts and had submitted suggestions and recommendations for consideration by the Council.

3. Pursuant to his request, the Drafting Committee of the Council had met on 13, 14 and 18 June 1990 to consider the original draft and the text prepared by the Inter-Departmental Working Group, with a view to incorporating the important technical suggestions recommended by the Secretariat. The result of that exercise was contained in the revised text of the Drafting Committee, which the Council had before it as document A/AC.131/1989/CRP.35/Rev.5.

4. Mr. BRISTOL (Chairman of the Drafting Committee) said that the Drafting Committee had endeavoured to finalize the draft resolution to be submitted by the Council to the General Assembly. It had held three formal meetings and several lengthy and laborious sessions of informal discussion, consultation and harmonization of views. The Secretariat had made a commendable contribution to that effort.

5. It was not always easy to define spirited political objectives within the contours of precise legal and procedural terms. By incorporating many of the suggestions and the advice offered to the Drafting Committee at the suggestion of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Council, the Drafting Committee had given its resolution the muscle of workability.

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(Mr. Bristol)

6. There were those who had thought that the Council would simply cease to exist the moment Namibia came into being. That would have been abandonment. What the Drafting Committee had tried to ensure was that the continuing international obligations of the United Nations assumed by virtue of the Council's unique mandate were not thoughtlessly abridged or recklessly squandered. The Drafting Committee hoped that document A/AC.131/1989/CRP.35/Rev.5 reflected that will.

7. Ms. COURTNEY (Australia) said that, while her delegation welcomed Part II of the Council's draft report, its endorsement of those texts was on the understanding that any action to be taken would be in accordance with the budgetary rules and regulations of the United Nations and would meet all legal requirements.

8. MR. LEGWAILA (Botswana), seconded by Mr. MFULA (Zambia), proposed that the Council should adopt the draft report by acclamation.

9. Mr. NOTERDAEME (Belgium) supported the proposal of Botswana. His delegation was happy to join in the consensus on the Council's draft report on the understanding that the resolutions as a whole, and in particular paragraphs 4 and 5 of the resolution on the dissolution of the United Nations Council for Namibia, were implemented with full respect for the administrative and budgetary rules of the United Nations.

10. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft report, together with its annexes, by acclamation.

11. It was so decided.

12. Mr. GAREKHAN (India) said that he had been present at the Council's very first meeting and had the honour of being present at its last and he was pleased to have had the opportunity to have worked for a just cause and to have seen it brought to fruition in his lifetime.

13. The PRESIDENT thanked the members of the Inter-Departmental Group, in particular the Legal Department, which had spent a great deal of time on the draft report and had improved it in many ways.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.